

I am a teacher and musician in Anaheim, CA. I listen to radio 4-8 hours per day. I do not own a television, so my entire daily media consumption is radio, especially for news. I teach music lessons to school children and sing in my local church choir. I listen to about six different radio stations in the area.

I have written 600 songs or other musical works and have been composing for 23 years. I am an unsigned musician and am composing the material for my first CD to be released in early 2005.

I have contacted many radio stations all over the country, and am constantly told that their playlists are selected by their corporate entity, which is about 2000 miles away from here. The English language stations in this market, other than the news/talk stations, are completely corporate controlled and do not feature local performers at all. The only stations that air anything remotely connected to the local community are the two public radio stations in this market.

Absolutely, the FCC needs to define "local programming." How can a corporate entity 2000 miles from here do anything that serves the locals here? They can't. They don't DO anything here. They have no interest in the community whatsoever. Most of what is on the air is not in any way of service to the community.

I do think it would be of service to the listening public if all programming decisions were made locally, if they can figure out a way to legislate that without interfering with business practices and free enterprise. The stations do need to work as a business to stay on the air, but they currently do not provide any service to the community other than buyable commercial time for local advertisers. The commercials are the only form of TRULY local programming. Voice-tracking is bad for the local community listeners. There is no community development in voice-tracking. The community definitely benefits from having local voices on the air. Low-power FM radio may be the only thing left that can save us from how bad "local" radio has become, since it is completely NOT local.

In regards to payola, it's still alive and well, but now there are just more pigs at the trough. Any payment to a radio station for airplay, involving an indie promoter or not, is payola, period. It is racketeering at its highest form and is completely ridiculous. It is the only nationwide, corporatized system of money laundering. Seeking payment to announce who an artist is is not only extortion, but it also violates the station's license terms. The stations must announce who they are and what they are broadcasting. If informercials on TV have to make it clear that they are airing paid programming, then it should be made clear on radio, too.

Remember, I listen to radio 4-8 hours PER DAY. In 30 years of listening to radio, I have NEVER heard anyone announce that a single that was being aired was paid for by anyone. If this is the current state of allowable business practice in this country, then I want every single cent of my lifetime of tax payments back because I refuse to pay any more money to a government that taxes MY business but continues to let this payola nonsense go on.

If we are to have an educated, literate, thinking society of effective and informed citizens, we have must develop it locally. Right now, go to any major city in America and listen to the drivel being spewed on corporate

radio stations. It's a travesty, and it's even worse that any record company is having to pay what is basically extortion to participate in this nonsense. AND, it doesn't serve the civic or social interest of a single citizen. We have got to put the community back into radio and work to reconnect people in communities through this media. If we are not going to make radio local, why even bother with licensing? If we aren't going to take care of the payola and the corporate conglomerates killing off any local voices, why bother to spend taxpayer money on the licensing entity? Make radio really serve the community to keep its license.

Thank you for your time and interest in the service of our local community and your commitment to quality broadcasting in the service of all our citizens!